

# Expanding the Career Horizons of Young Lawyers

## Become a Company Secretary

Lawyers looking to acquire a better grasp of the law and practice of corporate governance and company administration in order to equip themselves to pursue a career as a company secretary will now be able to gain a specific qualification.

Graduates with a Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries in Australia (CICSA) approved law degree are eligible to enrol in the Diploma program and will be required to undertake four courses: Company Secretarial Practice and Meetings, Corporate Governance, two business studies courses, Accounting for Managerial Decisions and Financial Management. Possession of the Diploma will also satisfy the academic requirements for CICSA membership.

The accounting and finance courses have been designed to ensure that law graduates are up to speed with the business side of the corporate governance arena, by providing them with the solid foundation in business missing from the traditional law degree.

However, law graduates who have also completed an acceptable business or equivalent degree may be exempted from these two courses.

CICSA's aim is to establish the Diploma as the industry training standard. It is also working towards strengthening the Diploma by applying to obtain full accreditation in all States to upgrade the qualification to a Graduate Diploma in Company Secretarial Practice, as well as to obtain cross-accreditation into MBA and other university postgraduate business and law programs.

Michael Ives of Mahlab Recruitment confirms the growing trend for young lawyers to take up company secretary or assistant company secretary positions: "Over the past twelve months we have handled a number of these sorts of jobs. Having the CISCAs diploma would certainly have been a useful qualification for the applicants."

For further details of the Diploma in Company Secretarial Practice and CICSA's Education Handbook, contact:

Maira Adams, CICSA, Level 7, 221 Queen Street, Melbourne, phone (03) 9670 8207, fax (03) 9670 4496.

External Courses: John Nelson, CICSA, 70 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, phone toll-free 1800 251 849.